

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

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INFO USMISSION NATO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0600

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: DECEMBER 2 EASTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

AT THE 121ST PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATION
ON DEC 2, CHARIED BY SOVIET REP (TARASOV), HUNGARIAN REP (FODOR)
DELIVERED THE ONLY STATEMENT. HIS PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTED
THE ABSENCE OF UPDATED NATO DATA TO SUPPORT THE WESTERN CASE
FOR DISPARITIES, STRESSED THE NEED TO PRESERVE THE EXISTING
FORCE RELATINSHIP IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND CLAIMED THAT, AS
REGARDS GEOGRAPHY, THE EAST COULD, IF IT WISHED, ARGUE FOR
PROPORTIONALLY LARGER FORCES SINCE THE EAST HAD 1.7 TIMES AS
MUCH TERRITORY AS THE WEST IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS. THE
MAIN POINTS OF THE HUNGARIAN STATEMENT, THE FULL TEXT OF WHICH
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FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM, WERE:

1. AS WAS NOTED IN THE DECLARATION ISSUED AT THE RECENT WARSAW PACT POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, THE SOCIALIST STATES SUPPORT THE PROCESS OF REDUCTIONS OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS, INCLUDING BOTH INDIGENOUS AND STATIONED FORCES, AND ARE DETERMINED TO CONTINUE TO ACHIEVE AN AGREEMENT TO COMPLEMENT POLITICAL WITH MILITARY DETENTE.

2. DESPITE A SERIES OF COMPROMISE EASTERN MOVES, THE WESTERN POSITION HAS CHANGED LITTLE SINCE THE TALKS BEGAN AND HAS NOT CHANGED AT ALL DURING THE PAST YEAR.

3. THE FAILURE OF WESTERN COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE REVISED DATA ON THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THEIR FORCES IS SLOWING THE PACE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. IN ORDER TO JUSTIFY ASYMMETRIC REDUCTIONS, THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS HAVE CLUNG TO THEIR ASSERTIONS REGARDING SUBSTANTIAL DISPARITIES - ASSERTIONS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN PROVEN AND DO NOT BEAR SCRUTINY IN THE LIGHT OF THE DATA TABLED BY THE EAST.

5. RATHER THAN RESPOND TO THE TABLING OF DATA BY THE EAST MORE THAN SIX MONTHS AGO, THE WEST PERSISTS IN ADVANCING PROPOSALS WHICH, AS EASTERN DATA HAVE SHOWN, AND BASED ON UNFOUNDED ASSUMPTIONS.

6. THE CURRENT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NATO AND WARSAW PACT FORCES IN THE AREA, WHICH HAS COME ABOUT OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME BASED ON EACH SIDE'S ASSESSMENT OF ITS OWN SECURITY REQUIREMENTS, IS CHARACTERIZED BY APPROXIMATE EQUALITY.

7. AN OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT OF MILITARY POTENTIAL MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ALL TYPES OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS, INCLUDING NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS.

8. A BIASED ASSESSMENT OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF FORCES, WHICH ONLY TAKES INTO ACCOUNT ISOLATED COMPONENTS, SUCH AS GROUND FORCE MANPOWER AND TANKS ONLY, CANNOT SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR AN AGREEMENT.

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9. THESE CONSIDERATIONS PREVENT THE CREATION OF THE SORT OF PARITY IN CENTRAL EUROPE ENVISAGED BY THE WEST.

10. THE EASTERN PROPOSAL OF FEB 19 PROVIDES THE REAL POSSIBILITY FOR A JUST REDUCTION OF THE EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH CONCENTRATION OF ARMED FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE IN CONFORMITY WITH AGREED PRINCIPLES.

11. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WESTERN PROPOSALS, BY CONTRAST, WOULD NEGATIVELY INFLUENCE DETENTE AND STABILITY IN EUROPE.

12. AS REGARDS FAR-FETCHED WESTERN ASSERTIONS ABOUT INSTABILITY, POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN EUROPE HAVE NEVER BEEN MORE REGULAR AND STABLE AS IS EVIDENCED BY THE VARIOUS TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS, INCLUDING THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT, CONCLUDED IN RECENT YEARS PRECISELY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE EXISTING RELATIONSHIP OF ARMED FORCES.

13. THE WEST USES THE GEOGRAPHIC SITUATION TO ARGUE FOR ITS UNJUSTIFIED PROPOSALS DESPITE THE FACT THAT, FOR INSTANCE, THE UNITED STATES LONG AGO ESTABLISHED THE MEANS TO COMPENSATE FOR ITS LOCATION ACROSS THE ATLANTIC.

14. MEANWHILE, THERE IS ANOTHER SIDE TO THE GEOGRAPHIC ARGUMENT; THE WARSAW PACT PORTION OF THE REDUCTIONS AREA IS 1.7 TIMES LARGER THAN THE CORRESPONDING NATO AREA.

15. SINCE THE LARGER THE AREA, THE LARGER THE FORCE REQUIRED TO DEFEND IT, THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES COULD ARGUE, THOUGH THEY DO NOT CHOOSE TO DO SO, THAT IT IS NECESSARY FOR THEM TO HAVE MORE POWERFUL ARMED FORCES IN THE AREA.

16. THE WESTERN ASSERTION THAT THE SOLDIER IS THE BASIC STANDARD FOR EVALUATING MILITARY POTENTIAL IS A HALF-TRUTH AND OVERSIMPLIFICATION INTENDED MERELY TO SUPPORT THE WEST'S REFUSAL TO REDUCE ARMAMENTS.

17. THE HUNGARIAN DELEGATION BELIEVES THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO SPECIFY AREAS OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING IN ORDER TO LAY THE BASIS FOR FUTURE PROGRESS AND HOPES THAT WESTERN PARTICIPANTS

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ARE SIMILARLY MOTIVATED TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS.RESOR

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